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STAFF DRAFT: NOT REVIEWED OR APPROVED BY STATE BOARD

Chairman Mary Nichols
California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Chairman Nichols:

On behalf of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, we request that the California Air Resources Board (ARB) approve the Compliance Offset Protocol for Rice Cultivation Projects within California's Emissions Trading Program. This protocol is essential because it not only recognizes the important role that the California agricultural sector can have in offsetting greenhouse gas emissions but it can also serve as an impetus for further emission reduction practices by farmers and ranchers.

The establishment of carbon markets is fundamentally important to the efforts of the State of California in mitigating climate change. Practices such as methane reduction, carbon sequestration, and nitrous oxide reduction are integral steps that agriculture can take to limit emissions. An adopted Offset Protocol for Rice Cultivation will further agricultural research, stakeholder collaboration and investment in other potential agricultural offset sectors.

ARB has the potential through the adoption of the Compliance Offset Protocol for Rice Cultivation to tap agriculture's potential to assist in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We are encouraged by the involvement and collaboration of many stakeholders in the development of the protocol and understand the critical need of having the appropriate science and metrics in place. We thank you for your work in helping to develop this protocol and look forward to seeing rice cultivation offsets being included within California's Emissions Trading Program.

Sincerely,

Craig McNamara

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